

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

EXHIBIT A

Exerpts from
"VIRTEX™ 2.5 V Field Programmable Gate Arrays"
by Xilinx, Inc.

For Serial No.: 09/703,181
Applicant(s): MOORE et al.



Virtex™ 2.5 V Field Programmable Gate Arrays

DS003-2 (v2.8.1) December 9, 2002

Product Specification

Architectural Description

Virtex Array

The Virtex user-programmable gate array, shown in Figure 1, comprises two major configurable elements: configurable logic blocks (CLBs) and input/output blocks (IOBs).

- CLBs provide the functional elements for constructing logic
- IOBs provide the interface between the package pins and the CLBs

CLBs interconnect through a general routing matrix (GRM). The GRM comprises an array of routing switches located at the intersections of horizontal and vertical routing channels. Each CLB nests into a VersaBlock™ that also provides local routing resources to connect the CLB to the GRM.

The VersaRing™ I/O interface provides additional routing resources around the periphery of the device. This routing improves I/O routability and facilitates pin locking.

The Virtex architecture also includes the following circuits that connect to the GRM.

- Dedicated block memories of 4096 bits each
- Clock DLLs for clock-distribution delay compensation and clock domain control
- 3-State buffers (BUFTs) associated with each CLB that drive dedicated segmentable horizontal routing resources

Values stored in static memory cells control the configurable logic elements and interconnect resources. These values load into the memory cells on power-up, and can reload if necessary to change the function of the device.

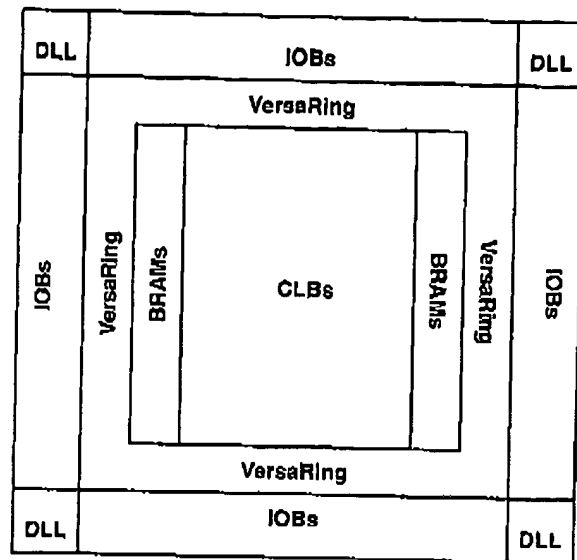
Input/Output Block

The Virtex IOB, Figure 2, features SelectIO™ inputs and outputs that support a wide variety of I/O signalling standards, see Table 1.

The three IOB storage elements function either as edge-triggered D-type flip-flops or as level sensitive latches. Each IOB has a clock signal (CLK) shared by the three flip-flops and independent clock enable signals for each flip-flop.

In addition to the CLK and CE control signals, the three flip-flops share a Set/Reset (SR). For each flip-flop, this signal can be independently configured as a synchronous Set, a synchronous Reset, an asynchronous Preset, or an asynchronous Clear.

The output buffer and all of the IOB control signals have independent polarity controls.



v3a_b.eps

Figure 1: Virtex Architecture Overview

All pads are protected against damage from electrostatic discharge (ESD) and from over-voltage transients. Two forms of over-voltage protection are provided, one that permits 5 V compliance, and one that does not. For 5 V compliance, a Zener-like structure connected to ground turns on when the output rises to approximately 6.5 V. When PCI 3.3 V compliance is required, a conventional clamp diode is connected to the output supply voltage, V_{CCO} .

Optional pull-up and pull-down resistors and an optional weak-keeper circuit are attached to each pad. Prior to configuration, all pins not involved in configuration are forced into their high-impedance state. The pull-down resistors and the weak-keeper circuits are inactive, but inputs can optionally be pulled up.

The activation of pull-up resistors prior to configuration is controlled on a global basis by the configuration mode pins. If the pull-up resistors are not activated, all the pins will float. Consequently, external pull-up or pull-down resistors must be provided on pins required to be at a well-defined logic level prior to configuration.

All Virtex IOBs support IEEE 1149.1-compatible boundary scan testing.

© 1999-2002 Xilinx, Inc. All rights reserved. All Xilinx trademarks, registered trademarks, patents, and disclaimers are as listed at <http://www.xilinx.com/legal.htm>. All other trademarks and registered trademarks are the property of their respective owners. All specifications are subject to change without notice.

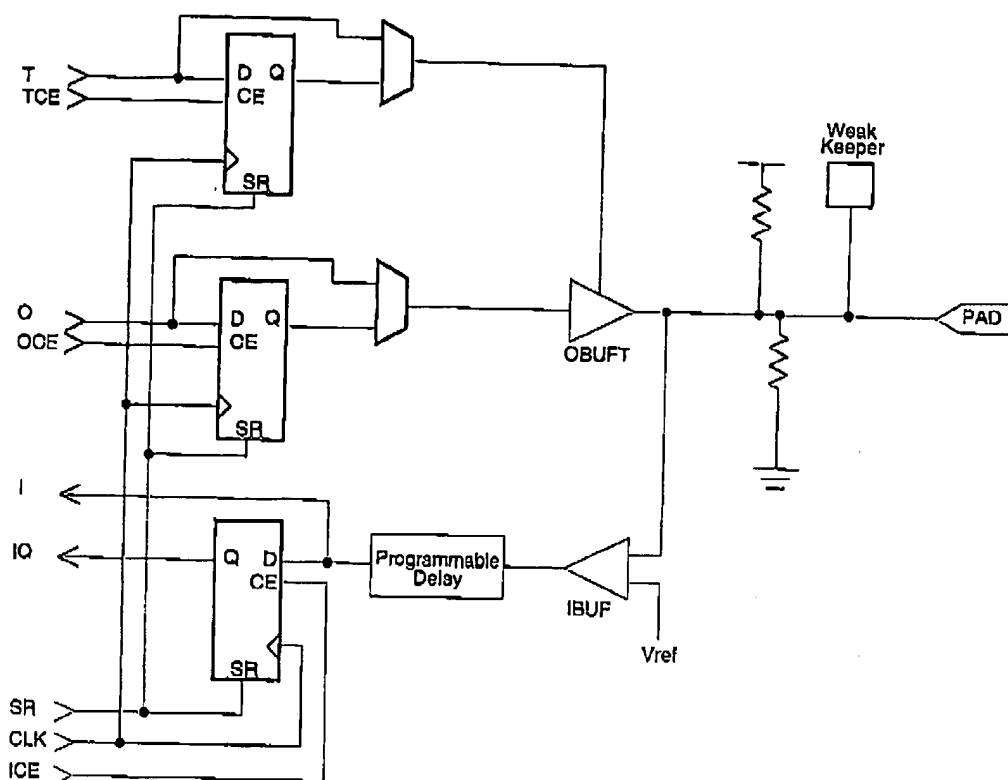
DS003-2 (v2.8.1) December 9, 2002
Product Specification

www.xilinx.com
1-800-255-7778

Module 2 of 4

PAGE 17/22 * RCVD AT 2/8/2005 1:48:30 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/2 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:408 977 0174 * DURATION (mm:ss):07:00

1



ds022_02_091300

Figure 2: Virtex Input/Output Block (IOB)

Table 1: Supported Select I/O Standards

I/O Standard	Input Reference Voltage (V_{REF})	Output Source Voltage (V_{CCO})	Board Termination Voltage (V_{TT})	5 V Tolerant
LVTTTL 2 – 24 mA	N/A	3.3	N/A	Yes
LVCMS02	N/A	2.5	N/A	Yes
PCI, 5 V	N/A	3.3	N/A	Yes
PCI, 3.3 V	N/A	3.3	N/A	No
GTL	0.8	N/A	1.2	No
GTL+	1.0	N/A	1.5	No
HSTL Class I	0.75	1.5	0.75	No
HSTL Class III	0.9	1.5	1.5	No
HSTL Class IV	0.9	1.5	1.5	No
SSTL3 Class I & II	1.5	3.3	1.5	No
SSTL2 Class I & II	1.25	2.5	1.25	No
CTT	1.5	3.3	1.5	No
AGP	1.32	3.3	N/A	No

Input Path

A buffer in the Virtex IOB input path routes the input signal either directly to internal logic or through an optional input flip-flop.

An optional delay element at the D-input of this flip-flop eliminates pad-to-pad hold time. The delay is matched to the internal clock-distribution delay of the FPGA, and when used, assures that the pad-to-pad hold time is zero.

Each input buffer can be configured to conform to any of the low-voltage signalling standards supported. In some of these standards the input buffer utilizes a user-supplied threshold voltage, V_{REF} . The need to supply V_{REF} imposes constraints on which standards can be used in close proximity to each other. See I/O Banking, page 3.

There are optional pull-up and pull-down resistors at each user I/O input for use after configuration. Their value is in the range 50 k Ω – 100 k Ω .

Output Path

The output path includes a 3-state output buffer that drives the output signal onto the pad. The output signal can be routed to the buffer directly from the internal logic or through an optional IOB output flip-flop.

The 3-state control of the output can also be routed directly from the internal logic or through a flip-flop that provides synchronous enable and disable.

Each output driver can be individually programmed for a wide range of low-voltage signalling standards. Each output buffer can source up to 24 mA and sink up to 48mA. Drive strength and slew rate controls minimize bus transients.

In most signalling standards, the output High voltage depends on an externally supplied V_{CCO} voltage. The need to supply V_{CCO} imposes constraints on which standards can be used in close proximity to each other. See I/O Banking, page 3.

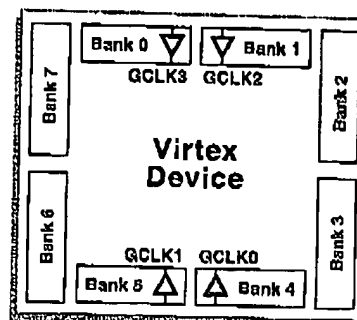
An optional weak-keeper circuit is connected to each output. When selected, the circuit monitors the voltage on the pad and weakly drives the pin High or Low to match the input signal. If the pin is connected to a multiple-source signal, the weak keeper holds the signal in its last state if all drivers are disabled. Maintaining a valid logic level in this way eliminates bus chatter.

Because the weak-keeper circuit uses the IOB input buffer to monitor the input level, an appropriate V_{REF} voltage must be provided if the signalling standard requires one. The provision of this voltage must comply with the I/O banking rules.

I/O Banking

Some of the I/O standards described above require V_{CCO} and/or V_{REF} voltages. These voltages externally and connected to device pins that serve groups of IOBs, called banks. Consequently, restrictions exist about which I/O standards can be combined within a given bank.

Eight I/O banks result from separating each edge of the FPGA into two banks, as shown in Figure 3. Each bank has multiple V_{CCO} pins, all of which must be connected to the same voltage. This voltage is determined by the output standards in use.



X8778_b

Figure 3: Virtex I/O Banks

Within a bank, output standards can be mixed only if they use the same V_{CCO} . Compatible standards are shown in Table 2. GTL and GTL+ appear under all voltages because their open-drain outputs do not depend on V_{CCO} .

Table 2: Compatible Output Standards

V_{CCO}	Compatible Standards
3.3 V	PCI, LVTTTL, SSTL3 I, SSTL3 II, CTT, AGP, GTL, GTL+
2.5 V	SSTL2 I, SSTL2 II, LVCMOS2, GTL, GTL+
1.5 V	HSTL I, HSTL III, HSTL IV, GTL, GTL+

Some input standards require a user-supplied threshold voltage, V_{REF} . In this case, certain user-I/O pins are automatically configured as inputs for the V_{REF} voltage. Approximately one in six of the I/O pins in the bank assume this role.

The V_{REF} pins within a bank are interconnected internally and consequently only one V_{REF} voltage can be used within each bank. All V_{REF} pins in the bank, however, must be connected to the external voltage source for correct operation.

Within a bank, inputs that require V_{REF} can be mixed with those that do not. However, only one V_{REF} voltage can be used within a bank. Input buffers that use V_{REF} are not 5 V tolerant. LVTTTL, LVCMOS2, and PCI 33 MHz 5 V, are 5 V tolerant.

The V_{CCO} and V_{REF} pins for each bank appear in the device Pinout tables and diagrams. The diagrams also show the bank affiliation of each I/O.

Within a given package, the number of V_{REF} and V_{CCO} pins can vary depending on the size of device. In larger devices,

more I/O pins convert to V_{REF} pins. Since these are always a superset of the V_{REF} pins used for smaller devices, it is possible to design a PCB that permits migration to a larger device if necessary. All the V_{REF} pins for the largest device anticipated must be connected to the V_{REF} voltage, and not used for I/O.

In smaller devices, some V_{CCO} pins used in larger devices do not connect within the package. These unconnected pins can be left unconnected externally, or can be connected to the V_{CCO} voltage to permit migration to a larger device if necessary.

In TQ144 and PQ/HQ240 packages, all V_{CCO} pins are bonded together internally, and consequently the same V_{CCO} voltage must be connected to all of them. In the CS144 package, bank pairs that share a side are interconnected internally, permitting four choices for V_{CCO} . In both cases, the V_{REF} pins remain internally connected as eight banks, and can be used as described previously.

Configurable Logic Block

The basic building block of the Virtex CLB is the logic cell (LC). An LC includes a 4-input function generator, carry logic, and a storage element. The output from the function generator in each LC drives both the CLB output and the D input of the flip-flop. Each Virtex CLB contains four LCs, organized in two similar slices, as shown in Figure 4.

Figure 5 shows a more detailed view of a single slice.

In addition to the four basic LCs, the Virtex CLB contains logic that combines function generators to provide functions

of five or six inputs. Consequently, when estimating the number of system gates provided by a given device, each CLB counts as 4.5 LCs.

Look-Up Tables

Virtex function generators are implemented as 4-input look-up tables (LUTs). In addition to operating as a function generator, each LUT can provide a 16 x 1-bit synchronous RAM. Furthermore, the two LUTs within a slice can be combined to create a 16 x 2-bit or 32 x 1-bit synchronous RAM, or a 16x1-bit dual-port synchronous RAM.

The Virtex LUT can also provide a 16-bit shift register that is ideal for capturing high-speed or burst-mode data. This mode can also be used to store data in applications such as Digital Signal Processing.

Storage Elements

The storage elements in the Virtex slice can be configured either as edge-triggered D-type flip-flops or as level-sensitive latches. The D inputs can be driven either by the function generators within the slice or directly from slice inputs, bypassing the function generators.

In addition to Clock and Clock Enable signals, each Slice has synchronous set and reset signals (SR and BY). SR forces a storage element into the initialization state specified for it in the configuration. BY forces it into the opposite state. Alternatively, these signals can be configured to operate asynchronously. All of the control signals are independently invertible, and are shared by the two flip-flops within the slice.

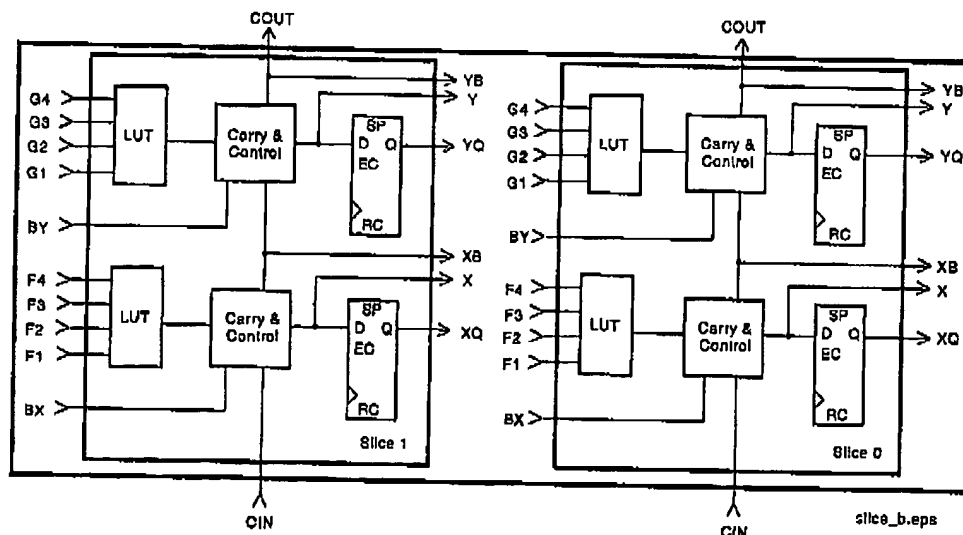


Figure 4: 2-Slice Virtex CLB

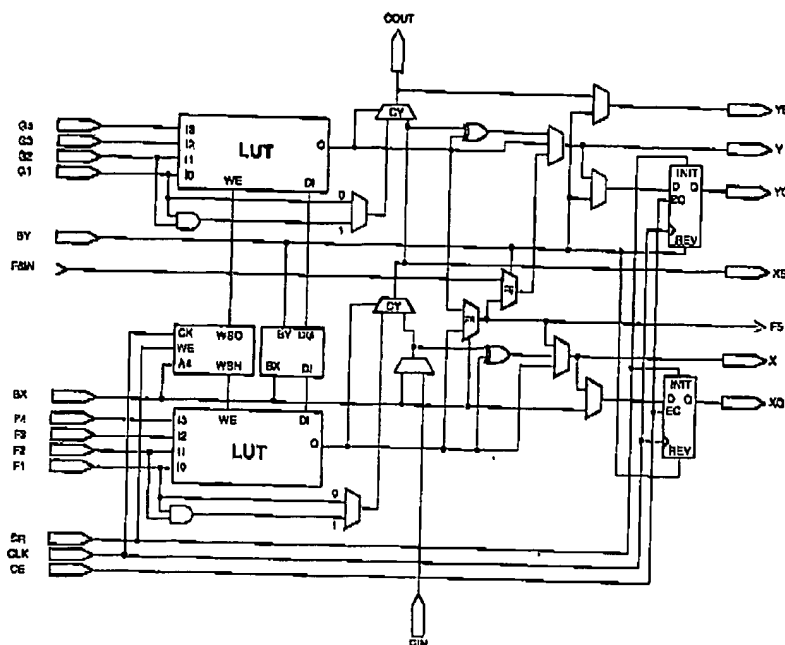


Figure 5: Detailed View of Virtex Slice

Additional Logic

The F5 multiplexer in each slice combines the function generator outputs. This combination provides either a function generator that can implement any 5-input function, a 4:1 multiplexer, or selected functions of up to nine inputs.

Similarly, the F6 multiplexer combines the outputs of all four function generators in the CLB by selecting one of the F5-multiplexer outputs. This permits the implementation of any 6-input function, an 8:1 multiplexer, or selected functions of up to 19 inputs.

Each CLB has four direct feedthrough paths, one per LC. These paths provide extra data input lines or additional local routing that does not consume logic resources.

Arithmetic Logic

Dedicated carry logic provides fast arithmetic carry capability for high-speed arithmetic functions. The Virtex CLB supports two separate carry chains, one per Slice. The height of the carry chains is two bits per CLB.

The arithmetic logic includes an XOR gate that allows a 1-bit full adder to be implemented within an LC. In addition, a dedicated AND gate improves the efficiency of multiplier implementation.

The dedicated carry path can also be used to cascade function generators for implementing wide logic functions.

BUFTs

Each Virtex CLB contains two 3-state drivers (BUFTs) that can drive on-chip busses. See **Dedicated Routing**, page 7. Each Virtex BUFT has an independent 3-state control pin and an independent input pin.

Block SelectRAM

Virtex FPGAs incorporate several large block SelectRAM memories. These complement the distributed LUT SelectRAMs that provide shallow RAM structures implemented in CLBs.

Block SelectRAM memory blocks are organized in columns. All Virtex devices contain two such columns, one along each vertical edge. These columns extend the full height of the chip. Each memory block is four CLBs high, and consequently, a Virtex device 64 CLBs high contains 16 memory blocks per column, and a total of 32 blocks.

Table 3 shows the amount of block SelectRAM memory that is available in each Virtex device.

Table 3: Virtex Block SelectRAM Amounts

Device	# of Blocks	Total Block SelectRAM Bits
XCV50	8	32,768
XCV100	10	40,960
XCV150	12	49,152
XCV200	14	57,344
XCV300	16	65,536
XCV400	20	81,920
XCV600	24	98,304
XCV800	28	114,688
XCV1000	32	131,072

Each block SelectRAM cell, as illustrated in Figure 6, is a fully synchronous dual-ported 4096-bit RAM with independent control signals for each port. The data widths of the two ports can be configured independently, providing built-in bus-width conversion.

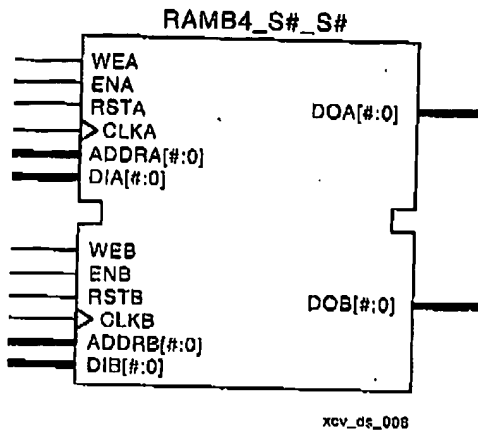


Figure 6: Dual-Port Block SelectRAM

Table 4 shows the depth and width aspect ratios for the block SelectRAM.

Table 4: Block SelectRAM Port Aspect Ratios

Width	Depth	ADDR Bus	Data Bus
1	4096	ADDR<11:0>	DATA<0>
2	2048	ADDR<10:0>	DATA<1:0>
4	1024	ADDR<9:0>	DATA<3:0>
8	512	ADDR<8:0>	DATA<7:0>
16	256	ADDR<7:0>	DATA<15:0>

The Virtex block SelectRAM also includes dedicated routing to provide an efficient interface with both CLBs and other block SelectRAMs. Refer to XAPP130 for block SelectRAM timing waveforms.

Programmable Routing Matrix

It is the longest delay path that limits the speed of any worst-case design. Consequently, the Virtex routing architecture and its place-and-route software were defined in a single optimization process. This joint optimization minimizes long-path delays, and consequently, yields the best system performance.

The joint optimization also reduces design compilation times because the architecture is software-friendly. Design cycles are correspondingly reduced due to shorter design iteration times.

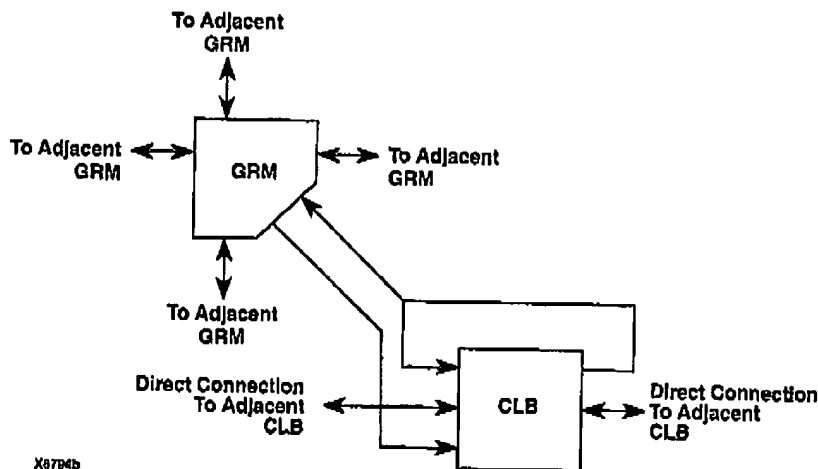


Figure 7: Virtex Local Routing

Local Routing

The VersaBlock provides local routing resources, as shown in Figure 7, providing the following three types of connections.

- Interconnections among the LUTs, flip-flops, and GRM

- Internal CLB feedback paths that provide high-speed connections to LUTs within the same CLB, chaining them together with minimal routing delay
- Direct paths that provide high-speed connections between horizontally adjacent CLBs, eliminating the delay of the GRM.